

CLAIMS

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1. A system for managing admission to an attraction comprising:
 - a first validator for establishing an entitlement of a customer to access the attraction;
 - a controller for generating an assigned time at which said customer may access the attraction, said assigned time comprising a next available time as determined by an algorithm performed by said system; and
 - a second validator for permitting said customer to access said attraction at said assigned time.
 2. The system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the controller unilaterally determines and issues said assigned time to said customer.
 3. A system for managing admission to an attraction comprising:
 - a first queue by which customers may access the attraction by waiting in line;
 - a second queue by which customers may access the attraction in a manner which avoids the first queue;
 - a first validator for validating an entitlement of a customer to access the second queue and generating an assigned time in the future at which an entitled customer may access the attraction via the second queue.
 4. The system in accordance with Claim 3, further comprising:
 - a second validator for permitting the entitled customer access to the attraction at the assigned time.
 5. The system in accordance with Claim 4 wherein the assigned time is determined and selected by the system.
 6. The system in accordance with Claim 5, wherein only a single time is generated and assigned to any one customer at any one time.
 7. The system in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said first validator is arranged to validate at least one type of identifying information from the group consisting of: magnetic strip, bar code, radio-frequency, iris, fingerprint, retina, voice, thermal, finger or hand geometry, and visual identification.
 8. The system in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said second validator is arranged to validate at least one type of identifying information from the group consisting of: magnetic strip, bar code, radio-frequency, iris, fingerprint, retina, voice, thermal, finger or hand geometry, and visual identification.

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- 1 9. The system in accordance with Claim 8 including at least one data storage device
 2 for storing data regarding times previously assigned to customers and wherein said
 3 system is arranged to deny validation of said customer to entitlement to an assigned time
 4 if said customer has an outstanding unused assigned time associated with said at least one
 5 storage device.
- 1 10. The system in accordance with Claim 9 including a media distributor for
 2 distributing an admission media to each customer entitled to access the attraction, said
 3 admission media including said assigned time.
- 1 11. The system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said media comprises a printed
 2 pass.
- 1 12. The system in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said first validator comprises
 2 a card reader for reading a ticket belonging to a customer.
- 1 13. The system in accordance with Claim 3 including a processor for determining at
 2 one or more times a real time operating capacity of said attraction, said processor
 3 determining a mix ratio of first queue patrons and second queue patrons and providing
 4 data about said real time operating capacity and said mix ratio to said system for
 5 generating said assigned time.
- 1 14. The system in accordance with Claim 3 including a display for displaying a time
 2 which is next to be assigned.
- 1 15. The system in accordance with Claim 3 including a media distributor for
 2 distributing an admission media to each customer entitled to access the attraction, said
 3 admission media including informational material printed thereon.
- 1 16. The system in accordance with claim 15 wherein said informational material is
 2 correlated to the location of the media distributor and the time assigned.
- 1 17. The system in accordance with claim 15 wherein the informational material is
 2 generated specifically for the customer based upon an identification of that customer.
- 1 18. The system in accordance with claim 15 wherein the informational material is
 2 generated to influence pedestrian traffic patterns.
- 1 19. A method for managing access of one or more customers to an attraction
 2 comprising:
 3 establishing at least one first queue by which one or more customers may access
 4 said attraction generally in an order in which customers access said at least
 5 one first queue;

6 establishing at least one second queue by which one or more customers may
 7 access said attraction in a manner which avoids said at least one first
 8 queue;
 9 establishing entitlement of at least one customer and generating an assigned time
 10 in the future for each entitled customer for accessing said attraction via
 11 said at least one second queue; and
 12 establishing entitlement of at least one customer to access said attraction via said
 13 at least one second queue at said assigned time in the future.

1 20. The method in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said assigned time is
 2 determined and selected by a controller.

1 21. The method in accordance with Claim 19 including the step of issuing a media to
 2 said at least one customer if entitlement to an assigned time in the future is established.

1 22. The method in accordance with Claim 19 including the step of assigning said
 2 times in the future in chronological order.

1 23. The method in accordance with Claim 19 including the step of displaying a next
 2 to be assigned time in the future for accessing said attraction via said at least one second
 3 queue.

1 24. The method in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said assigned time is generated
 2 based upon one or more factors affecting demand for and capacity of said attraction.

1 25. The method in accordance with Claim 19 including the step of providing a printed
 2 pass including informational material printed thereon.

1 26. The method in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said informational material is
 2 correlated to the location where the printed pass was printed and the time assigned.

1 27. The system in accordance with Claims 25 wherein the informational material is
 2 generated to influence pedestrian traffic patterns.

1 28. The system in accordance with Claim 25 wherein the informational material is
 2 generated specifically for the customer based upon an identification of that customer.